

R E M A R K S

This application contains claims 41-82. Claims 41, 46, 50, 56, 64, 66, 68, 72, 73, 76, 80 and 81 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Ke for the courtesy of an interview with Applicant's representative, Sanford T. Colb (Reg. No. 26856), held in the USPTO on July 20, 2005. At the interview, Mr. Colb presented a demonstration of "Dynamic Skin" software that is based on the principles of the present invention. The distinction of the claimed invention over the cited art (Glaser, U.S. Patent 6,392,671; and Novak, U.S. Patent 6,791,581) was discussed, but the Examiner was not persuaded that the present language of the independent claims distinguishes over Glaser. Mr. Colb pointed out that the filing date of Novak was later than the priority date of the present patent application, and that Novak therefore could not be considered prior art against the present application. The Examiner agreed to withdraw the finality of the present Official Action upon filing of a response making this point of record.

In the Official Action, the Examiner noted that the word "substantially" in claims 50, 56, 62, 69 and 73 rendered these claims indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Not all these claims include the word "substantially," and on the other hand, no mention was made of other claims in which the word does appear. In order to expedite prosecution, however, Applicant has amended all the claims in which "substantially" did appear (claims 46, 50, 56, 64, 66, 72, 73, 80 and 81) to delete the word from these claims. Therefore, all the claims in the present application are now believed to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 41, 42, 45, 46, 49, 50, 52, 57-60, 64-69, 71, 73-77, 79, 81 and 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Glaser (U.S. Patent 6,392,671). Applicant has amended independent claims 41, 68 and 76 in order to clarify the distinction of the present invention over Glaser.

Glaser describes a computer pointing device that includes a unique identifier, so that a graphical user interface (GUI) of the computer is automatically changed in accordance with the identifier (abstract). Features of the GUI that may be changed include the background image, color scheme, cursor shape, wall paper design, sound association, button shape and control bar color, content, design or lack thereof (col. 3, lines 19-22). Glaser makes no suggestion, however, that the locations of any of these elements on the screen might be changed when the pointing device is replaced. On the contrary, in the examples shown by Glaser (Figs. 2A and 2B), all the user interface elements remain in the same positions, even if the corresponding graphical features change their individual appearance.

This sort of behavior was characteristic of graphical “skins” that were known in the art prior to the present invention: In all cases, the skin is tied to a template and must line up geometrically with the underlying functional user interface elements. Consequently, the GUI designer has only limited flexibility in choosing the shapes, sizes and relative positions of the elements of the interface. (See page 1, lines 21-25, in the present patent application.)

Claim 41 recites a method for creating a GUI for a computer application, in which user interface objects and user interface elements corresponding to the user interface objects are defined in a GUI layer that is separate from the computer application. A mapping is arbitrarily defined between the user interface objects and respective locations in a user interface screen, and the user interface screen is defined with the user interface elements in the respective locations determined by the mapping. The claim has been amended to clarify that the mapping defines the locations of the user interface objects independently of the computer application.

Thus, the method of claim 41 permits the GUI designer to define the locations of the user interface objects in the GUI arbitrarily and independently of the functions and program code of the computer application. As explained above, although Glaser permits the appearance of individual GUI elements to be changed, he neither teaches nor suggests the notion of a mapping that defines the locations of the objects arbitrarily and independently in this fashion. Therefore, claim 41 is believed to be patentable over Glaser. In view of the

patentability of claim 41, claims 42, 45, 46, 49, 50, 52, 57-60 and 64-67, which depend from claim 41, are also believed to be patentable.

Claims 68 and 76, respectively, recite a computer software product and apparatus, which operate on principles similar to the method of claim 41. These claims have been amended in like manner to claim 41 and are therefore believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above. In view of the patentability of claims 68 and 76, claims 69, 71, 73-75, 77, 79, 81 and 82, which depend from claim 68 or claim 76, are believed to be patentable, as well.

Claims 43, 48, 61 and 70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Glaser in view of Craycroft et al. (U.S. Patent 6,731,310). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Craycroft was filed March 28, 2002. On the other hand, the present patent application was filed in the national phase of PCT patent application PCT/IL00/00744, filed November 13, 2000, which claims priority from Israel Patent Application 132,929, filed November 14, 1999. Therefore, Craycroft is ineffective as prior art against the present patent application, and the rejection of claims 43, 48, 61 and 70 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn. As agreed in the interview, the finality of the final rejection should thus be withdrawn, as well.

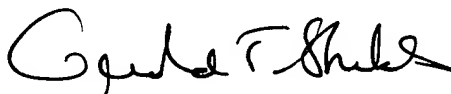
Claims 47, 53-56 and 78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Glaser in view of Novak et al. (U.S. Patent 6,791,581). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Novak was filed January 31, 2001, later than the priority date of the present patent application. Therefore, the rejection of claims 47, 53-56 and 78 should be withdrawn.

Claims 62, 63 and 80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Glaser in view of Hochstedler et al. (U.S. Patent 6,707,476). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Hochstedler was filed July 5, 2000, later than the priority date of the present patent application. Therefore, the rejection of claims 62, 63 and 80 should be withdrawn, as well.

Claim 72 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Glaser in view of Kanevsky et al. (U.S. Patent 6,300,947), while claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Glaser in view of Buxton et al. (U.S. Patent 6,118,427). In view of the patentability of amended independent claims 41 and 68, from which claims 44 and 72 respectively depend, claims 44 and 72 are also believed to be patentable.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks stated above to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald T. Shekleton".

Gerald T. Shekleton
Registraton No. 27,466

Dated: July 28, 2005
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 S. Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3912
Telephone (312) 655-1500
Facsimile (312) 655-1501